

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7931

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VC

SUBJ: PPP CONVENTION REAFFIRMS JOSHUA AS PPP PRESIDENT

REFS: BRIDGETOWN 1704, 1634, 1576, 1574, AND BRIDGETOWN A-121

1. IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCASTED BY CBC ON OCTOBER 16, PREMIER JAMES F. MITCHELL SAID THAT HE PLANS TO HAVE GENERAL ELECTIONS SOMETIME IN THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER. HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED BY THE PEOPLES POLITICAL PARTY (PPP) MINISTERS IN HIS GOVERNMENT TO RUN ON THEIR PARTY'S TICKET. MITCHELL REVEALED THAT HE HAD CONSULTED WITH MEMBERS OF HIS CONSTITUENCY AND THAT HE HAD OBTAINED THEIR SUPPORT FOR HIS CANDIDACY ON THE PPP TICKET.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, A REUTERS REPORT IN OCTOBER 17 ADVOCATE NEWS STATES THAT A WELL ATTENDED PPP CONVENTION HELD ON OCTOBER 13 REAFFIRMED ITS CONFIDENCE IN VETERAN POLTICIAN EBENEZER JOSHUA AS PRESIDENT OF THE PPP AND RE-ESTABLISHED HIM AS ITS "UNDENIABLE" HEAD. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL 1704, JOSHUA CALLED THIS CONVENTION "TO DETERMINE THE POSITION OF MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS OF NEIL SYLVESTER AND OTHERS" WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE THROWN JOSHUA AND THE LATTER'S WIFE IVY OUT OF THE PPP. REPORTEDLY, JOSHUA WAS GIVEN PERMISSION BY THE CONVENTION TO DEAL WITH THE PPP "REBELS" AND PROMPTLY EXPELLED SYLVESTER AS WELL AS TWO

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OTHER PPP MINISTERS, MINISTER OF HEALTH VICTOR CUFFY AND MINSTER

OF EDUCATION ALPHONSO DENNIE. JOSHUA ALSO EXPELLED GEORGE WALKER, WHO HAD BEEN SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PPP AND REPLACED HIM WITH CHARLES JAMES. HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER CLIVE TANNIS, THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TO VOTE AGAINST THE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION WHICH BROUGHT DOWN MITCHELL'S ALLIANCE GOVERNMENT, WAS NEVERTHELESS MADE DEPUTY PRESIDENT REPLACING SYLVESTER.

COMMENT: APPARENTLY, THE SCHISM IN THE PPP HAS GROWN EVEN DEEPER, AND THERE ARE NOW TWO SEPARATE GROUPS - ONE UNDER JOSHUA'S LEADERSHIP, ONE UNDER MITCHELL'S - PROFESSING TO CONSTITUTE THE PARTY AND PREPARING TO CONTEST THE ELECTIONS UNDER ITS LABEL. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH JOSHUA REMAINS IN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE PARTY MACHINERY, BUT SYLVESTER REPORTEDLY FILED A PETITION TO TAKE THE PPP ELECTION SYMBOL, "THE CLOCK," AWAY FROM JOSHUA, AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS WILL RESPOND TO THIS PETITION. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT TANNIS HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO THROW IN HIS LOT WITH JOSHUA.

SIMMS

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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